

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION NETWORK PLANS SUMMIT

By Kathleen Piché, L.C.S.W., Public Affairs Director



The Los Angeles County Suicide Prevention Network met at the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center on Friday, June 13, 2014, to better coordinate suicide prevention efforts in Los Angeles County. Attendees included staff from LACDMH, Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Didi Hirsch Suicide Prevention Center, various Community Based Organizations (CBO's), and concerned advocates. The mission of the network is to promote public and professional awareness, education, training and engagement regarding suicide and suicide prevention, intervention and post-vention in Los Angeles County.

From LA Teen Line, attendees saw a screening of a recent video including parents and teens sharing personal stories from LA Teen Line:

<http://teenlineonline.org/videos/2014/05/23/teen-line-suicide-prevention-video/>. Every two hours a young person dies by suicide. Learn about knowing the warning signs, how to speak to those at risk and the resources available at <http://www.suicideispreventable.org/>



Mary Ann O'Donnell, R.N., LACDMH Office of the Medical Director, spoke about the research, outreach and education being done by the Injury Control Research Center for Suicide Prevention (ICRC-S).

Linda Boyd, R.N., LACDMH Emergency Outreach Bureau (EOB), spoke about coordination efforts with law enforcement, inpatient hospital units and schools to lower risk of dangerous situations with youth by developing better communication protocols and coordinating services. "We no longer need to operate in silos," Boyd said.

The group confirmed a place and date for the next *Suicide Prevention Summit*, to be held September 9, 2014, at the California Endowment. The *Suicide Prevention Summit* is an annual event that brings together great minds in suicide prevention to make an impact in prevention in our communities.

Funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA, Proposition 63), the *Suicide Prevention Summit* will bring together well-known experts from mental health, hospitals, education, police and fire as well as advocates, providers, researchers and survivors to collaborate and chart a comprehensive strategy for suicide prevention over the next ten years.